



City of New Haven  
Community Services Administration  
Youth Services Bureau



Youth Department

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**TO:** Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and Members of the Judiciary Committee

**From:** Stephen Driffin, Youth Services Specialist

**RE:** Raised Bill No. 6703

**Date:** March 15, 2013

The City of New Haven has over 20,000 identified youth and over 100 youth serving programs aimed at providing a myriad of support services for them. In addition, New Haven has been historically known to be at the forefront of innovative thinking and initiatives to provide the best services for the youth in our city.

Senator, Representative and Members, as the Youth Services Specialist working for the Youth Service Bureau of New Haven, I applaud everyone's effort in working toward solutions to improving the lives of our youth. We are forever lucid that we could never have enough services for such a population with such diverse needs. New Haven youth-serving organizations are dedicated to the prevention of youth violence and gang activity; however, it is imperative that resources be made available to ensure the success of our youth—without such would be making brick without straw. We are in support of House Bill # 6703 and would be honored to assist in this initiative and be a part of the process .primarily because New Haven is virtually doing this in varying capacities currently.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203.946.8583 or [sdriffin@newhavenct.net](mailto:sdriffin@newhavenct.net) .